

apolis, Ind., 1904; New York, 1905; Atlanta, Ga., 1906; Topeka, Kan., 1907; Baltimore, Md., 1908; Louisville, Ky., 1909.

One of the objects of the National League is to encourage the organization of local business leagues throughout the country, and to stimulate the business life of the race. At the convention in Louisville, Ky., August 18, 1909, Dr. Washington, in his annual address, directed attention to the success of the league, and added, "This organization has succeeded and will succeed because it has a constructive program and not a destructive one. A constructive program is the only one that will hold men together and make them work for a common cause. When we had our first meeting, there was comparatively little interest among our people in business, commercial, and industrial enterprises. This organization has grown during these years to the point where hundreds of our best men and women come together, representing all parts of our country, for these annual meetings. We have at least 500 local Negro Business Leagues scattered throughout the country. When we began work there were few drug stores under the control of black people; now we have nearly 200. A few years ago there were only about half a dozen Negro banks in the country; now there are 47. Dry-goods stores, grocery stores and industrial enterprises to the number of nearly 10,000 have sprung up in all parts of the country."

The membership of the league, both men and women, represents every section of the country, and every department and phase of business life. Outgrowths of the national meetings have been the organization of the National Negro Bankers' Association, the National Negro Press Association, the National Negro Funeral Directors' Association, and others. Many state business associations have been formed and are doing excellent work. The membership of the National League is of two classes: life members, who pay \$25, and annual members, who pay \$2.

Dr. Washington has been unanimously reëlected the president of the league since his first election at the Boston convention in 1900. There are five vice-presidents: Charles Banks, Mound Bayou, Miss.; Dr. S. G. Elbert, Wilmington, Del.; Harry T. Pratt, Baltimore, Md.; J. T. Langford, Washington, D. C., and W. H. Steward, Louisville, Ky. The corresponding secretary is Emmett J. Scott, secretary to Dr. Washington at Tuskegee Institute. Gilbert C. Harris, Boston, has been treasurer of the league from the beginning. The other officers, each of whom is a representative business man, are as follows: S. Laing

Williams, Chicago, compiler; F. H. Gilbert, Brooklyn, N. Y., registrar; R. C. Houston, Fort Worth, Tex., assistant registrar; Wm. H. Davis, Washington, official stenographer; Cyrus Field Adams, Washington, transportation agent. The executive committee is composed of the following persons, all of whom are life members of the organization: J. C. Napier, chairman, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. S. E. Courtney, Boston, Mass.; J. C. Jackson, Lexington, Ky.; W. S. Taylor, Richmond, Va.; E. P. Booze, Colorado Springs, Colo.; J. E. Bush, Little Rock, Ark.; J. B. Bell, Houston, Tex.; S. A. Furniss, Indianapolis, Ind.; M. M. Lewey, Pensacola, Fla.; N. T. Velar, Brinton, Pa.; W. T. Andrews, Sumter, S. C.; F. D. Patterson, Greenfield, Ohio. It is expected that the annual meeting for 1910 will be held in Boston.

At the convention in Louisville, Dr. Washington suggested the observance in 1913 of the half century of the Negro's freedom, and recommended that a committee be appointed to carry forward the movement to hold somewhere in the country an exhibition "to indicate by tangible and visible things the tremendous growth that has taken place in the material, educational, moral, and religious life of the Negro" during the past fifty years. The league authorized the appointment of such a committee, and plans are already being considered for a proper celebration of this important event.

Emmett J. Scott

Tuskegee, Ala.

EXECUTIVE secretary of Tuskegee Institute, and secretary to Dr. Booker T. Washington since 1897; one of the founders, and corresponding secretary, of the National Negro Business League, and recently appointed by President Taft a member of the commission of the United States to Liberia, to investigate conditions in that country — the only Negro member.

Mr. Scott is probably the best known of the younger men of the race, and takes rank as a man of keen perceptions and rare executive ability, cordial in his manner, a good public speaker, and one who is intensely interested in the material and moral progress of the race.

Dr. Washington, in his book, "Tuskegee and Its People," says of Mr. Scott: "For many years Mr. Scott has served the school with rare fidelity and zeal, and has been to the